India's policy towards Gulf

361. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's policy towards the Gulf;

(b) what steps Government psopose to take to ascertain the factual position regarding the losses suffered by Indians in Gulf countries; and

(c) what further measures are proposal to be taken to avoid the sufferings of Indian there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) India has been seeking a peaceful settlement of the Gulf War.

(b) Under the present conditions, it is not possible to ascertain the factual position regarding losses suffered by Indians in Gulf countries.

(c) Government is taking every possible measure, with the help of the governments of the Gulf countries concerend to minimise the suffering of the Indian nationals in the Gulf, arising out of the war.

Joint communique of Soviet Union and United States on Gulf War

362. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Soviet Union and the United States of America in a Joint communique offered a possible halt in the fighting if Iraq made an unequivocal commitment to withdraw from Kuwait; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensore peace in Gulf and prevent further loss of life and property there due to bombardments by the multinational forces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has been persisting with its efforts to seek a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis.

Cancellation of the Visit of President of Indonesia to India

363. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Indonesia Gen. Suharto, was invited as the Chief Guest on the occasion of the Republic Day this year;

(b) whether the President of Indonesia had cancelled the visit almost at the last minute; and

(c) if so, the reasons for cancellation of the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) We were informed by the Indonesian authorities on 18th January, 1991 that President Suharto had regretfully decided to cancel the visit to India due to serious situation caused by the out-break of the war in the Gulf.

Indians in Iraq and Kuwait

364. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of Indian nationals stranded in Iraq and Kuwait at the commencement of the Gulf war;

(b) the number of those who have so far been repatriated to India; and

(c) what steps Government have taken for the safety and return to India in respect of those who are still there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) The number of Indian nationals still staying in Iraq as the time of the commencement of the Gulf war was around 2000 and around 6000 in Kuwait.

(b) All but around 130 have been evacuated from Iraq. Evacuation out of Kuwait has been difficult.

(c) Our Embassy in Baghdad has extended all possible help for their safe and early return to India.